With Compliments

Sub

East Grinstead Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1913.

Old Stone House,

East Grinstead,

March, 1914.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1914.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT on the Health and Sanitary condition of the East Grinstead Urban District for the Year ending 31st December, 1913.

Area: 6,355 Acres. **Population: Census (of 1911), 7,090.**

	1911.	1912.	1913.
Population estimated to middle of year	7,090	7,150	7,250
Birth Rate per 1,000	18·6	17·6	16·7
General Death Rate per 1,000	11·4	8·3	9·9
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	·42	·41	0·0
Death Rate, Phthisis	1·1	1·1	1.3
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases	1·5	1·02	1·3
Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births	75·7	39·6	66·1
Deaths over 65 per centage of Total Deaths	33·3	40·0	40·2

Vital Statistics.

In 1913 the deaths of 88 persons at all ages and from all causes were recorded in the District, against 78 in 1912 and 102 in 1911. Of these 88 deaths, 16 were of persons not residing in the District, but brought in from outside.

The actual number of deaths of persons resident in the Urban District was therefore 72, equal to a death rate of 9·9 per 1,000 persons living.

Of the 72 recorded deaths, 8 were children under one year of age, and were in the proportion of 6·9 per cent. of those born; 29 or 40·2 per cent. were of persons 65 years of age and upwards, 13 of these persons were 80 years of age and upwards, the oldest being 91.

Eight children died under the age of one year, in the proportion of 66·1 per 1000 registered births.

Births.

The births decreased from 126 to 121, the birth rate being still further reduced to 16·7 per 1,000 of those living. 55 of the children born were girls and 66 boys; 5 of the registered births were of illegitimate children.

The continuous and general decline in the birth rate is a very serious matter for the country, unfortunately the people who can best afford to support a family are the ones who most often evade their obligations in this matter.

Zymotic Disease.

There were no deaths from the ordinary Zymotic Diseases, one baby of 7 months old was certified to have died of " Influenza and Bronchitis."

There were 8 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, of which 5 had received Sanatorium treatment, there were 4 deaths from other varieties of Tubercle.

Notification of Infectious Disease.

The District has continued to enjoy the somewhat remarkable immunity from Infectious diseases which has been characteristic of the last few years, only 21 cases were notified in 1913 of which more than half were cases of Tubercle.

The notifications were as follows :—

Small-pox	1
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8
Other forms of Tubercle	4
Diphtheria	6

The case of Small-pox in the above list was a suspicious case but was finally declared not to be Small-pox, the man was isolated and every precaution taken to prevent the spread of infection, including the vaccination of all contacts, this case was the subject of a special Report to the Local Government Board, who sent down their Medical Inspector to see the man and the arrangements made for his accommodation.

Of the six cases of Diphtheria, four occurred in a Ladies' school and were apparently due to a defective ventilating shaft which could discharge sewer gas into a dormitory window.

The cases of Tuberculosis are now on the same footing as other cases of an infectious nature, i.e., the premises are visited, sanitary defects noted, printed instructions relating to the nature of the disease are furnished which contain necessary information how to prevent the spread of the disease.

Cancer.

Only six deaths occurred from Cancer and other forms of malignant disease. Although nothing new has been discovered as to the origin or cause of this disease some real progress appears to have been made in its treatment by Radium, this remarkable substance certainly seems to have a destruciive influence on the cancer cells in certain cases, and some very striking results have been reported. Unfortunately the available amount of Radium is so small that experimental research is severely restricted by the want of the metal.

Inquests.

Four Inquests were held on residents in the District, three of these referred to cases of Suicide, the remaining Inquest was held on a man who accidentally fell off a cab and fractured his skull.

Water.

During the year the new pumping station at Forest Row has been completed and a large number of houses have been connected to the mains, as it is quite easy to pump the water from Forest Row into the tower at East Grinstead, there is no difficulty in supplying the whole of the District from either source.

The new Water Tower is being built on the Playfield and when finished the whole of the works sanctioned by the Act of 1910 will be completed.

Baths.

The new Council Swimming Bath was largely used during the warmer months.

Housing and Town Planning.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected during 1913, under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act of 1909	35
Number of such houses considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
Number of representations made to the Urban Council with a view to the making of closing orders	nil
Number of closing orders made	nil
Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	34
Number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	nil

General character of the defects found to exist:

Damp floors and and walls from defective surface drains, defective guttering, dirty condition of inside walls and ceilings.

The cottage accommodation in this District has improved of late years, there was undoubtedly a certain amount of overcrowding as recently as 1909, in that year the average number of persons per house was 5·3. At the Census of 1911 this was reduced to 4·9, and in 1913 there was a still further reduction to 4·7 per house. This relief has been afforded by

a. Decline in the birth-rate.

b. A considerable amount of emigration which has checked the normal increase of population.

c. The erection since 1910 of 88 new houses, chiefly cottages.

There is still a demand for workmen's dwellings at a rent of 5s. to 7s. per week.

A private Company has been formed with a capital of £10,000, of which £3,000 has already been subscribed, and when £6,000 has been raised building operations will be commenced.

An option over ten acres of suitable building land on the Halsford estate has been taken, and it is intended eventually to build between 70 and 80 cottages on this site.

This scheme has the warm approval of the Urban District Council who will help it forward by every means in their power, I believe they will be ready to make certain modifications in the existing Building Bye-laws, without which it is impossible, owing to the high price of materials, to build cottages to let at a remunerative rent.

A private owner has deposited plans for twelve four-roomed cottages in the town itself.

With the above schemes in front of them the Council have for the present postponed the question of providing more workman's dwellings.

With very few exceptions the general housing conditions in the District may be said to be good, and call for no special proceedings.

Milk Supply.

The various Dairies and Dairy farms supplying milk to the town have been well managed, although greater attention to cleanliness is necessary in certain instances.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage Farm is very efficiently managed, the Bacteriological treatment appears to be very satisfactory judging from the uniformly good quality of the sewage effluent during the year.

Scavenging.

The removal of house refuse has been well performed, during the year, 1834 loads have been collected; the increasing difficulty of disposing of this refuse has been an anxiety to the Council, but they have now provisionally purchased a piece of land on which they hope to erect a "Destructor."

The slaughter houses in the town have probably been managed as well as is possible under the circumstances but owing to the proximity of most of them to dwelling houses, some nuisance is bound to arise in the hot weather. I am glad to think that there is at least a prospect of an Abbatoir being provided.

The District has been under constant inspection and 65 notices were served during the year.

The weather of 1913 was on the whole favourable, but the rainfall exceeded the average by about three inches, the total for the year amounting to 34·76 inches, of which 10·34 inches fell during October and November.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT.

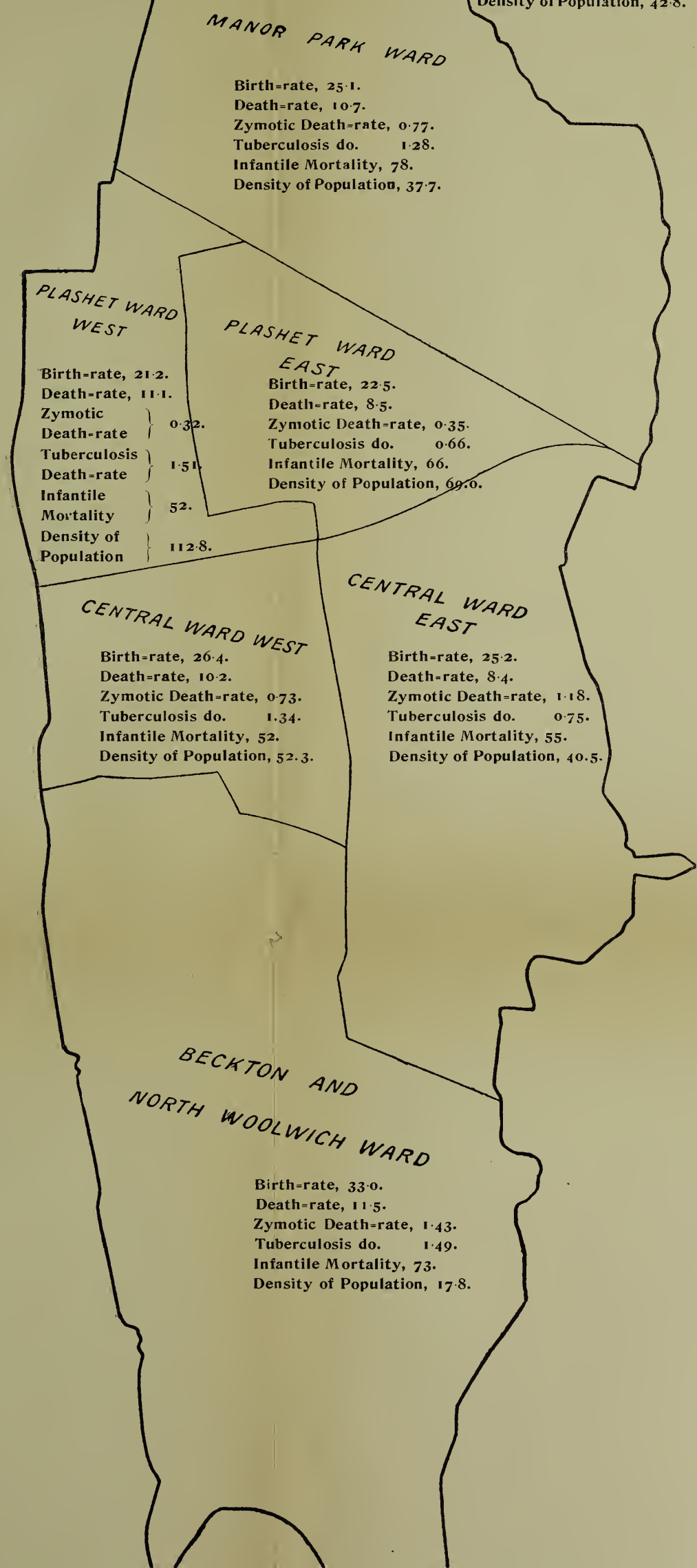
Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	7·100		143	20·01	83	11·6	16		7	48·7	67	9·4
1909	7·400		148	20	113	15·2	27		12	80·1	86	11·6
1910	7·600		136	17·09	86	11·3	13		7	51·4	73	9·6
1911	7·090		132	18·06	102	14.3	21	8	10	75·7	81	11·4
1912	7·150		126	17·6	78	10·7	18	10	5	39·6	60	8·3
1913	7·250		121	16·7	88	12·1	16	10	8	66·1	72	9·9

Area of District in acres (land and inland water). 6,355

Total population at all ages 7,090
Number of inhabited houses 1,436
Average number of persons per house ..... 4·9
(At Census of 1911.)

PERCY E. WALLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

OLD STONE HOUSE,
EAST GRINSTEAD,
March, 1914.

Density of Population, 42·8.